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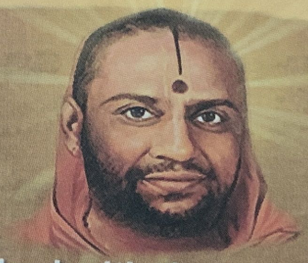
RAYARA CHITRA KATHA

The Real Life Story of Shri Raghavendra Thirtharu with illustrations



This Book is Published with the Inspiration, Grace and Blessings of

His Holiness Sri Subudendra Tirtha Swamiji
Peetadhipathi
Jagadguru Sriman Madhvacharya Moola Maha Samsthana,
Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt
Mantralayam

FOREWORD

The very thought of Sri Raghavendra Swamiji, brings to our mind, sanctity, divinity and nobility. His life story is one of great inspiration for young minds. The sacred story of Raghavendra Swamy is very popular among devotees. But there is a need to take it to children, whose minds are always open, fresh, receptive things of life.

Children are natural. They smile beautifully. They are always positive. They would like to learn. For them everything happens. Their mind is pure and has all the potential to absorb all such things which gives them all the comforts, peace, health, happiness, joy and success. Raghavendra Swamy is such Guru, who can give all this abundantly to those who think of him, worship him and adore him with devotion and love.

Raghavendra Swamiji is the embodiment of all auspiciousness. He is inexhaustible mind of all noble qualities and greatest attributes. Even though he is the great saint of the millennium still his love for music and children is remarkable. He is bright, brilliant and ocean of divine knowledge like Brihaspathi, he is radiant like sun, he is pleasant like moon, he is kind and generous like earth, he is life-giving, refreshing, and sacred like Ganga, he is grand and magnificent like Himalayas, for millions and millions of devotees, his blessings has helped in removing all their problems, difficulties, agonies, of life.

Particularly for children his blessings work fast and very powerfully, as their minds are unpolluted.

In this context there is an urgent need of taking this message of Raghavendra Bhakthi to the young minds of children. The need of the hour is to tell them about the significance of noble values and right virtues, heralded by our saints and sages. These stories, guidance, can mould and shape the future of a child into something extraordinary and exceptionally great.

It is such stories passed down form generation for ages from mothers to the young minds and were the threads by which the moral fabric of India was woven. Such stories carved the contours of right and honest life, with dignity, moral conduct and sterling character.

Even though many books have come in the children's series, a book like this on Raghavendra Swamiji was not available for children. This book is handy, simple, artistic, likable, and easily readable by children. Pictures are attractive, narrative and self-explanatory. One line treatment of the story has made it easy, interesting and fascinating, with all the power and vigor of rich poetical beauty and colorful artwork.

The color, Action, Story line, has tremendous visual impact and they gently creep into and add the respect for ancient masters of Indian heritage.

I congratulate Lakshmi brooke coffee hosts limited who have conceived this project, believed in it and achieved to bring to it millions of children living in different parts of the world. The book appears like a palm leaf scripture giving it a touch of sanctity and heritage value.

I congratulate Sri Anil Kumar of Lakshmi brooke coffee hosts limited for undertaking such a novel venture of value education for children. Sri Anil Kumar is an ocean of bliss and blessing. He has already initiated Parimala TV venture, which will be a global level accomplishment. His beloved wife deserves a special mention for her invaluable suggestion. She is a source of continuous inspiration for him in all his spiritual endeavors. Sri Anil Kumar has made this book a real joy for all the children. This book will bring a new profound influence on the minds of young children. I am sure parents will gladly welcome this new attractive version of Raghavendra Story as retold by Anil Kumar.

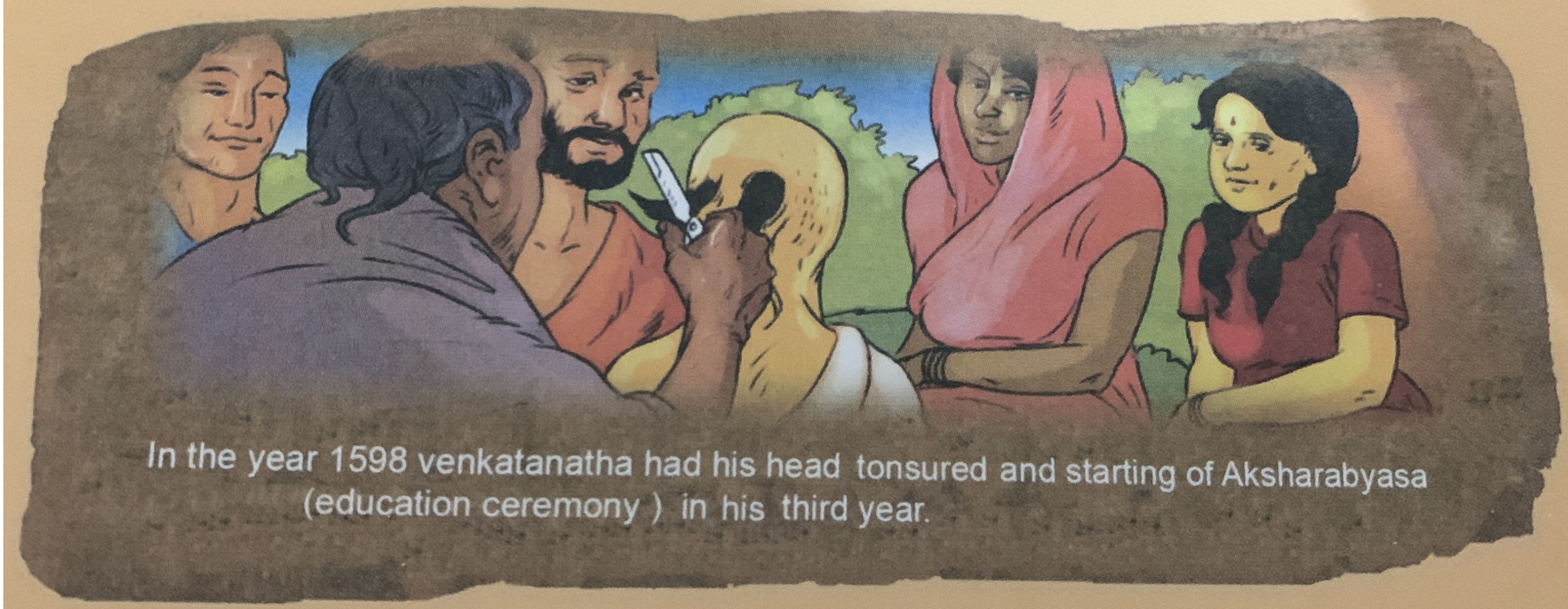
It has been gracious of him to have given this opportunity to me to write a small introductory note by way of foreword.

My Sashstanga Pranaams to Poojya Sri Subhudhendra Theertha Swamiji of Mantralaya Mutt,For his blessing in bringing out this book.

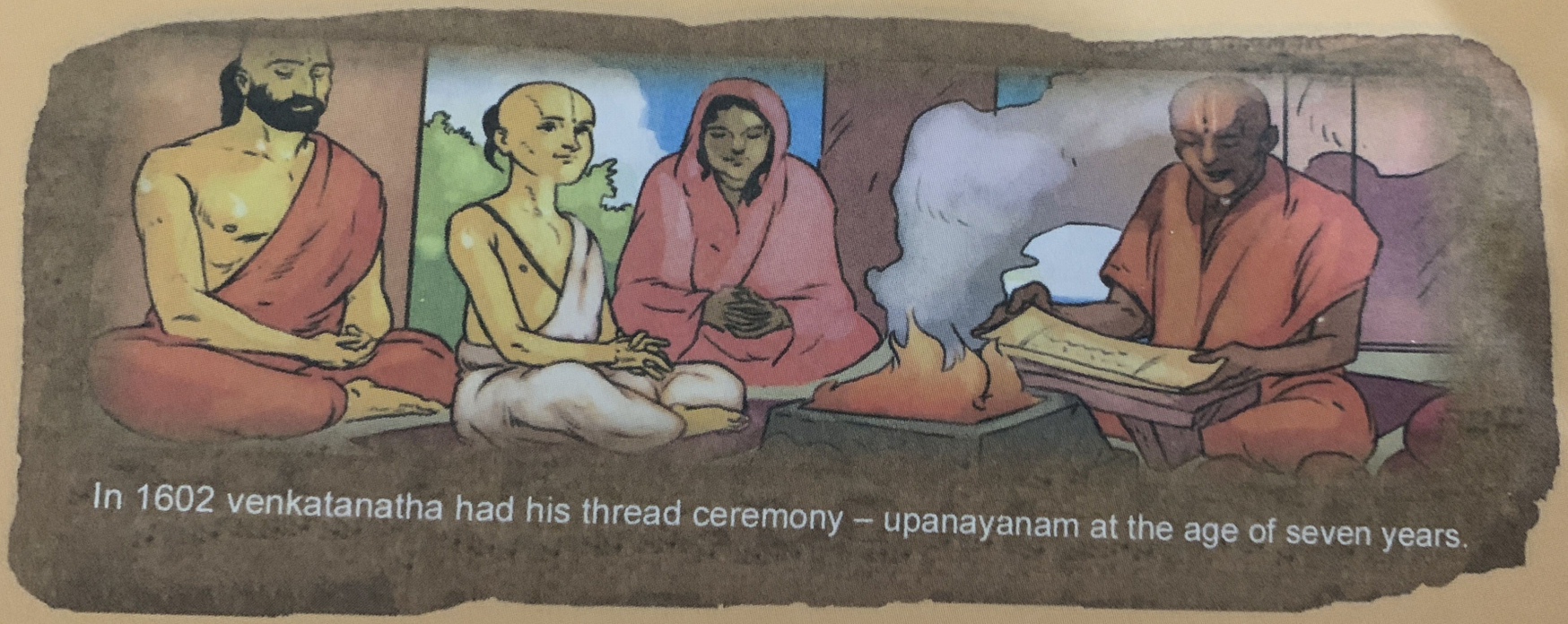
- Vidya Vachaspathi
Dr. Aralumallige Parthasarathy

Omkara Pranava Roopa

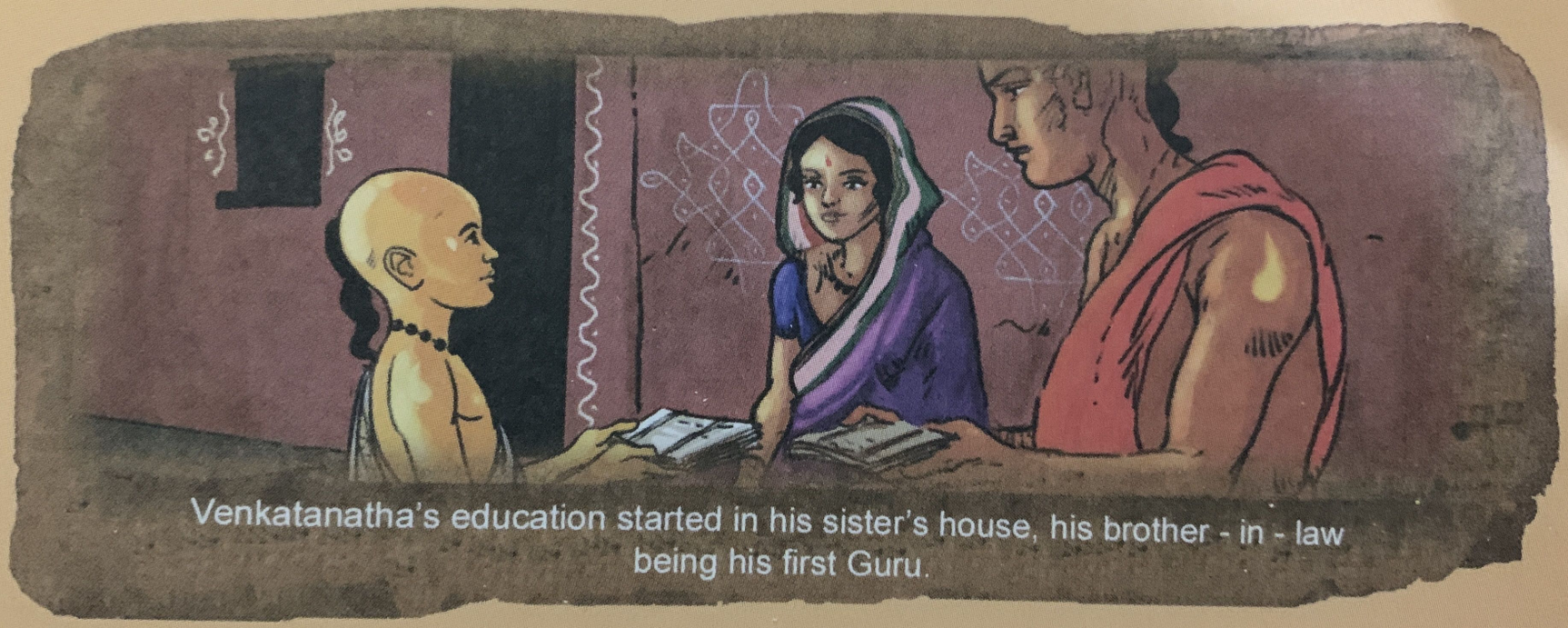
A radiant baby was born in the year1595. Holding the baby is the happy mother and surrounded by its father, elder sister of 7 years and brother of 5 years age. The baby was named as Venkatanatha.



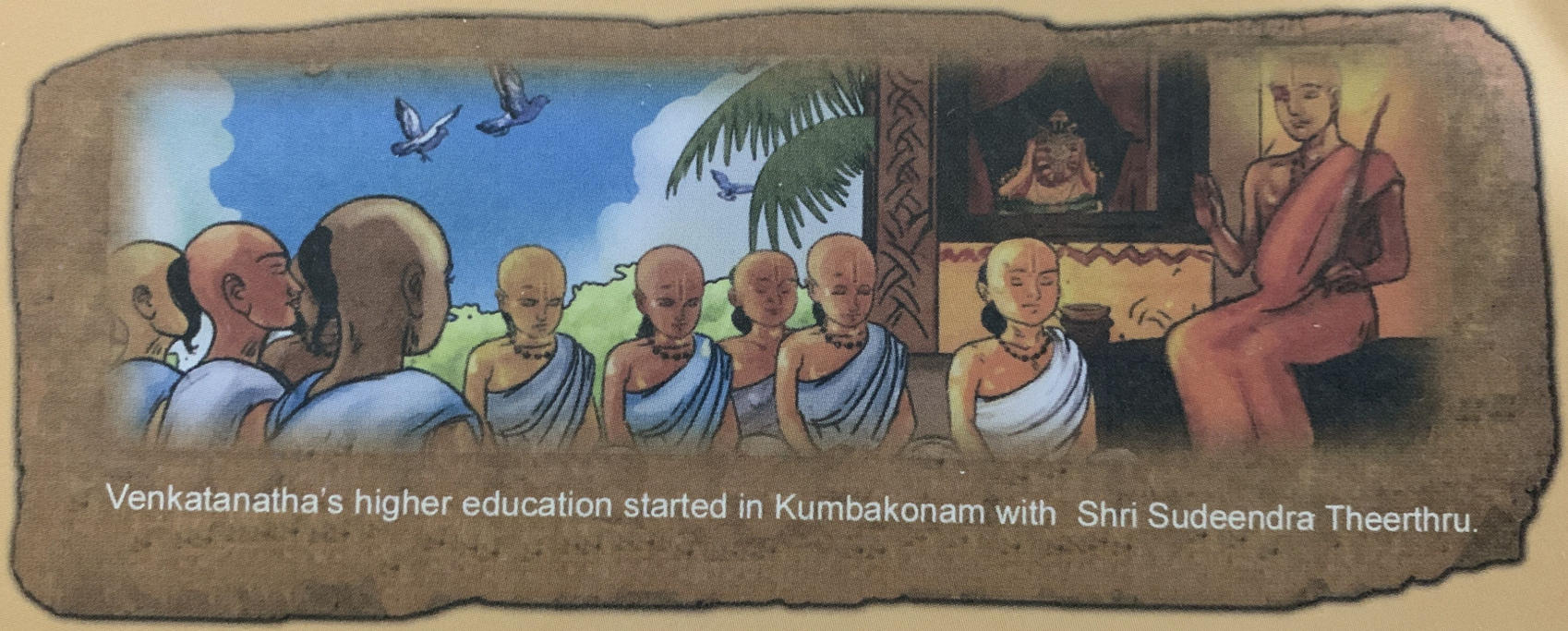
In the year 1598 venkatanatha had his head tonsured and starting of Aksharabyasa (education ceremony) in his third year.



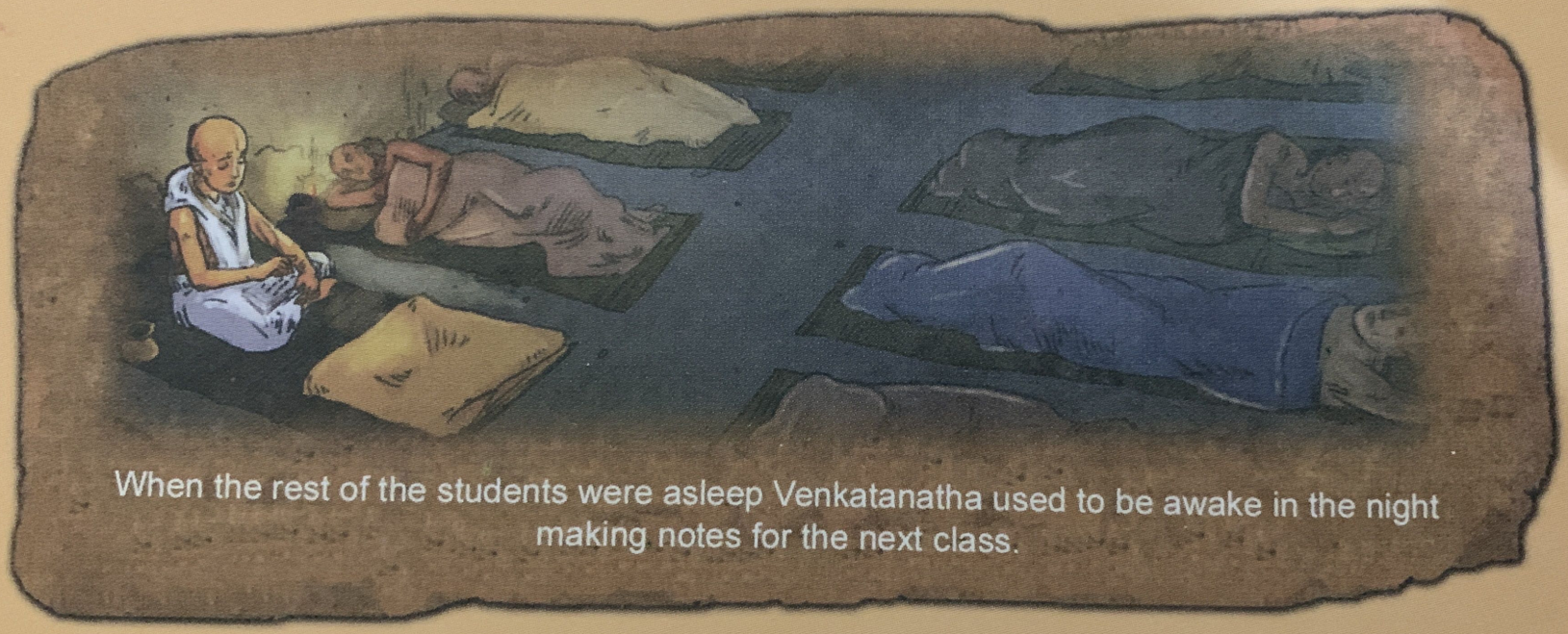
In 1602 venkatanatha had his thread ceremony – upanayanam at the age of seven years.



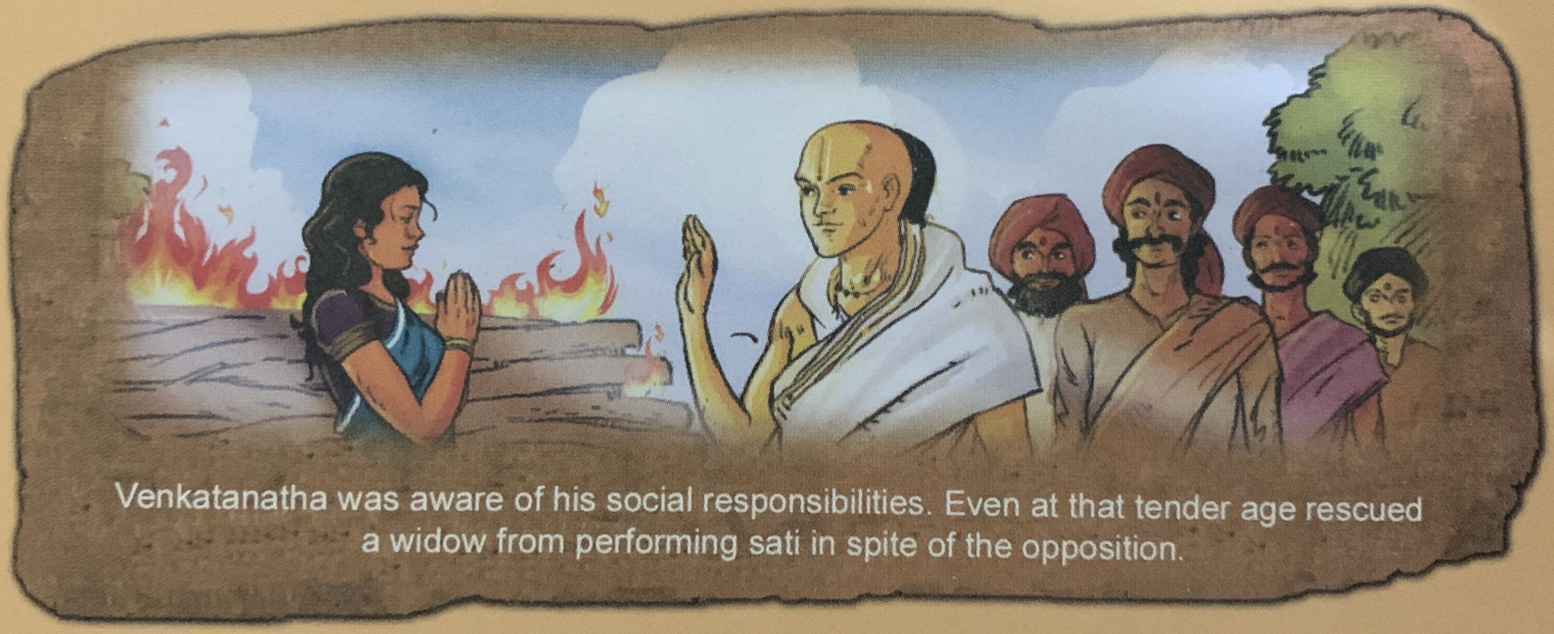
Venkatanatha's education started in his sister's house, his brother - in - law being his first Guru.



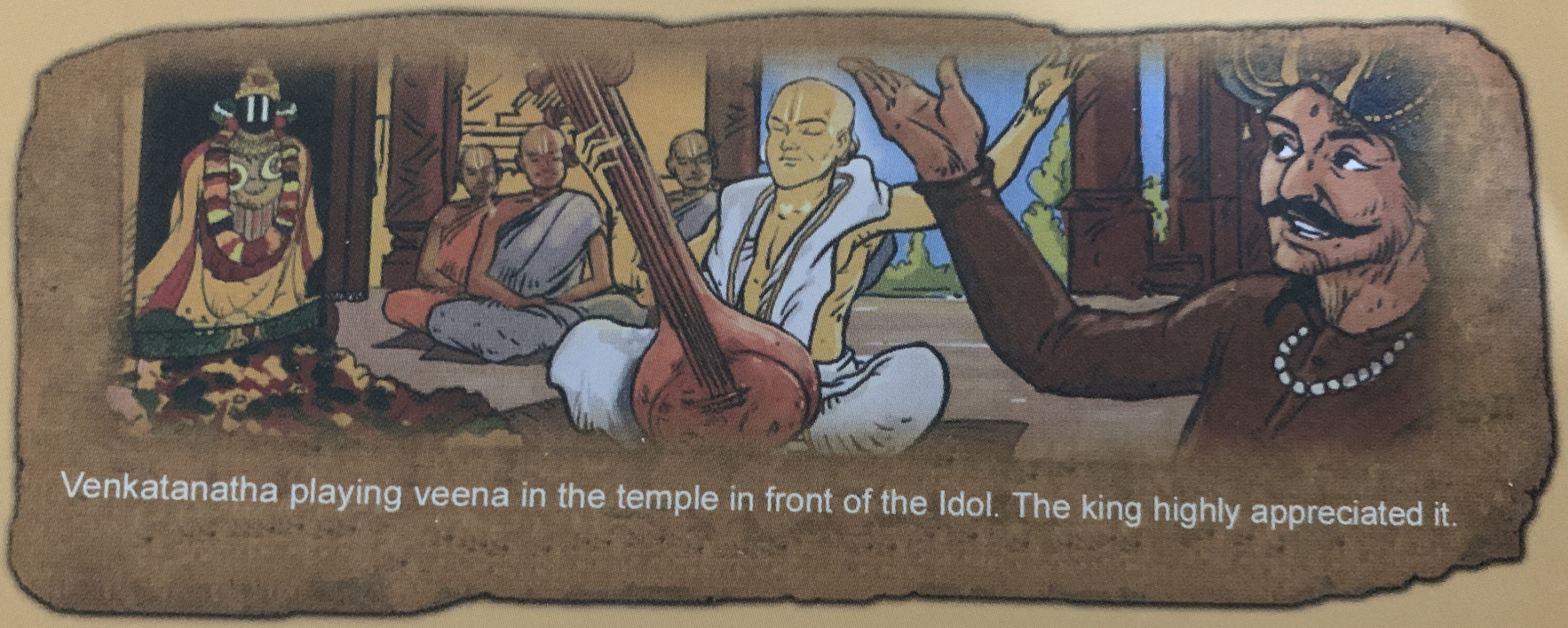
Venkatanatha's higher education started in Kumbakonam with Shri Sudeendra Theerthru.



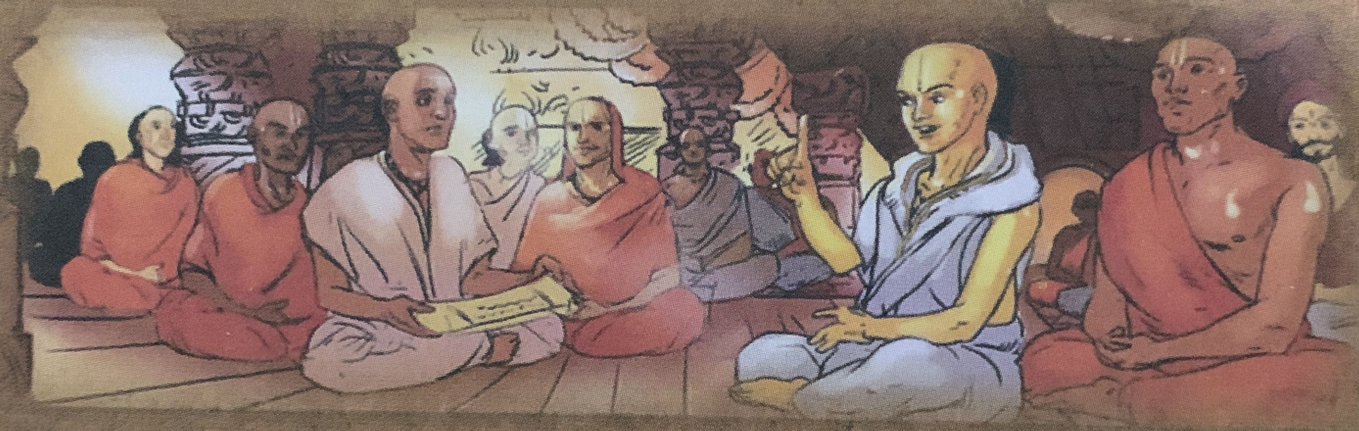
When the rest of the students were asleep Venkatanatha used to be awake in the night making notes for the next class.



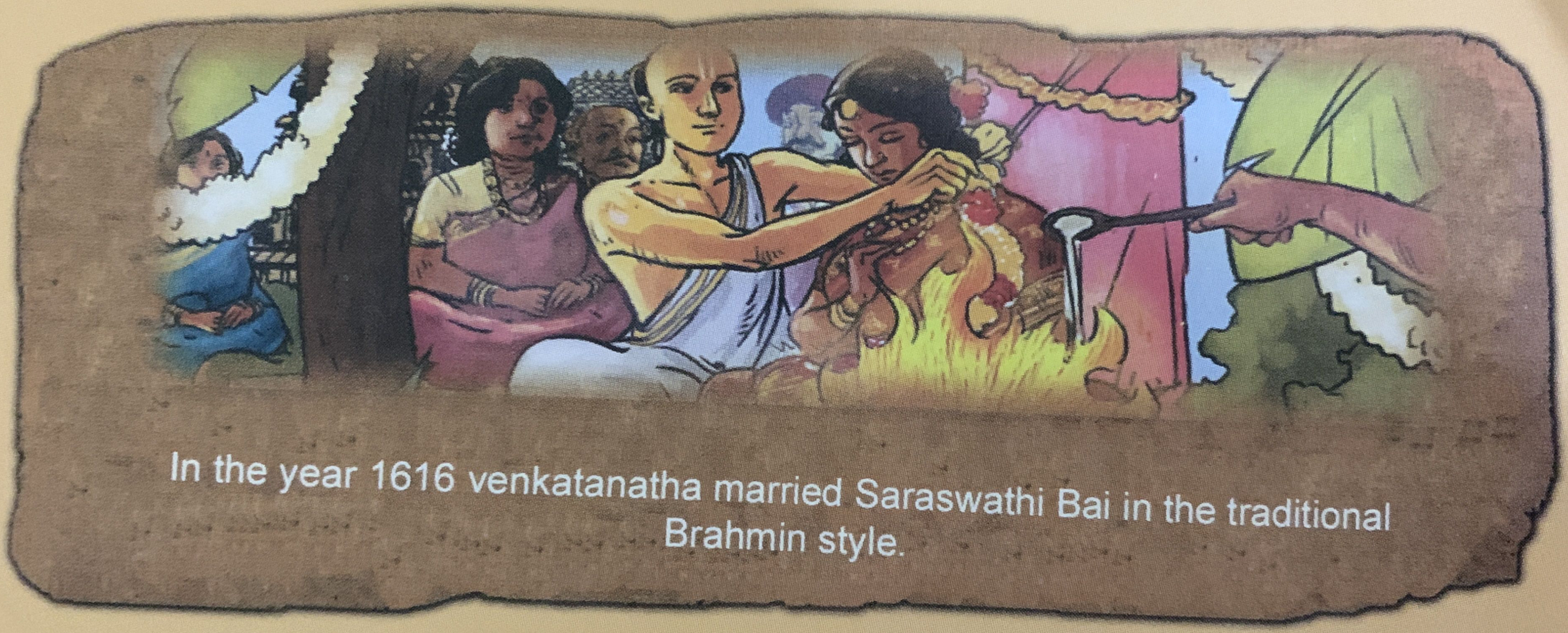
Venkatanatha was aware of his social responsibilities. Even at that tender age rescued a widow from performing sati in spite of the opposition.



Venkatanatha playing veena in the temple in front of the Idol. The king highly appreciated it.

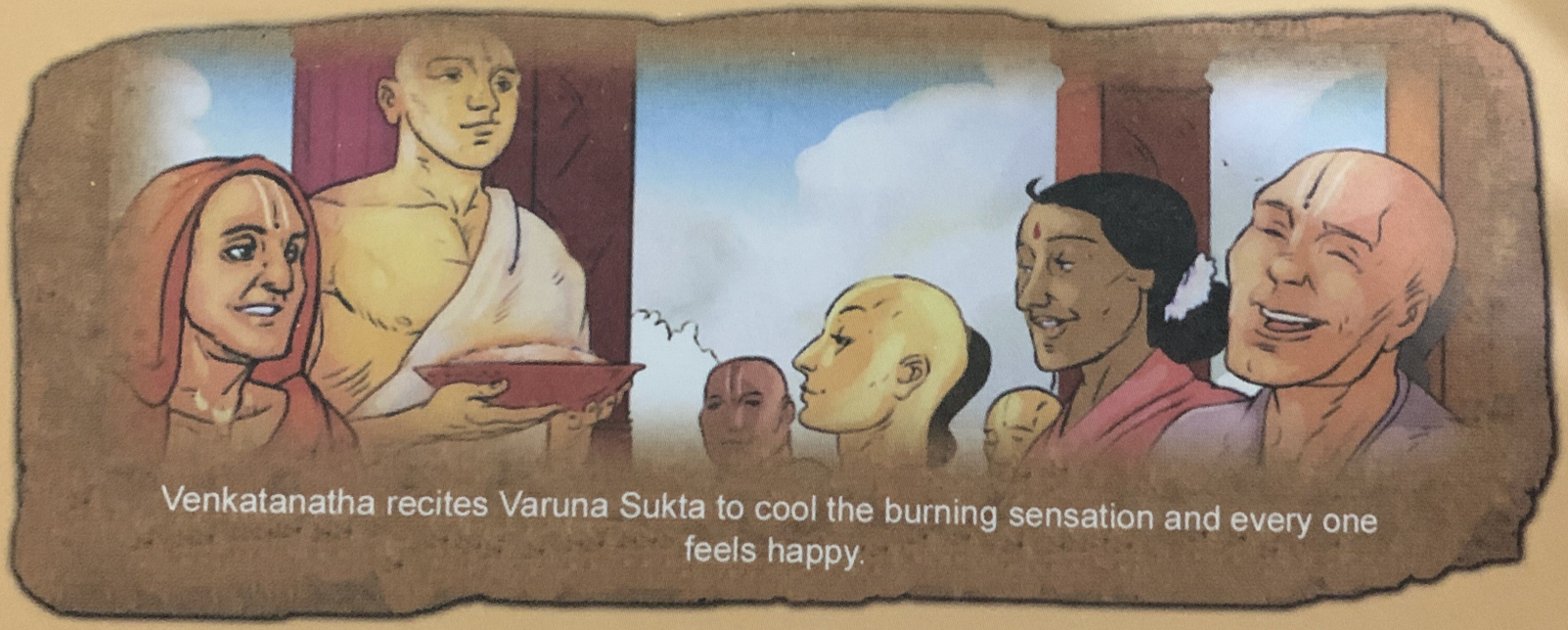


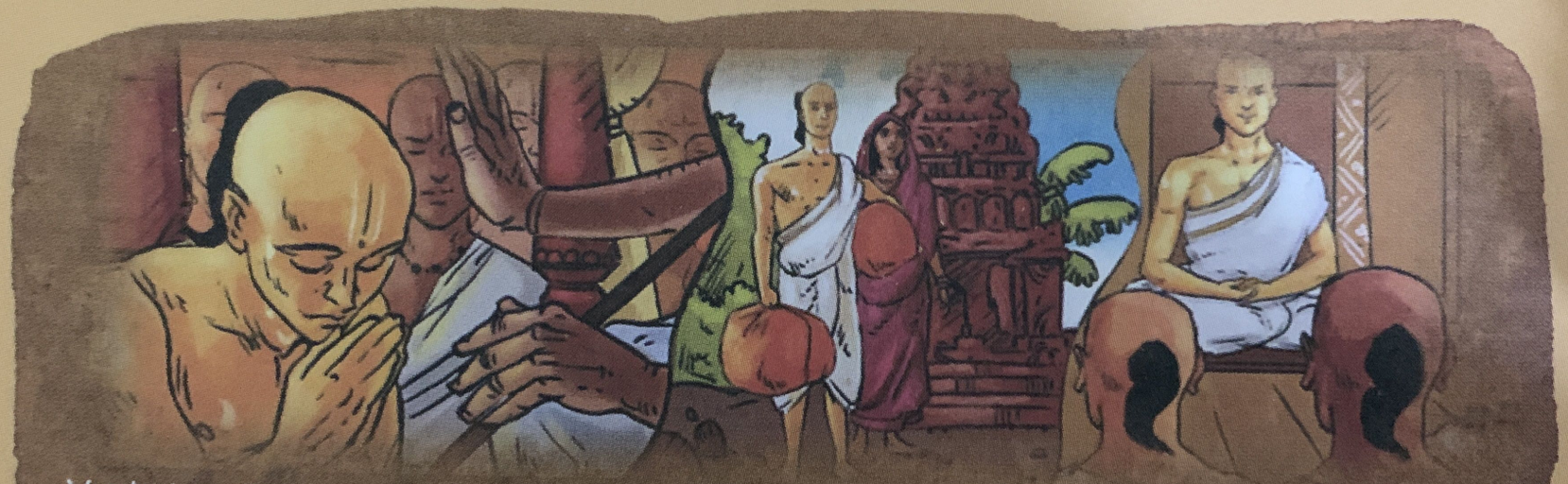
Venkatanatha wins a debate against a pandit and was conferred the title “Sakala Kala Vallabha” in Madurai.



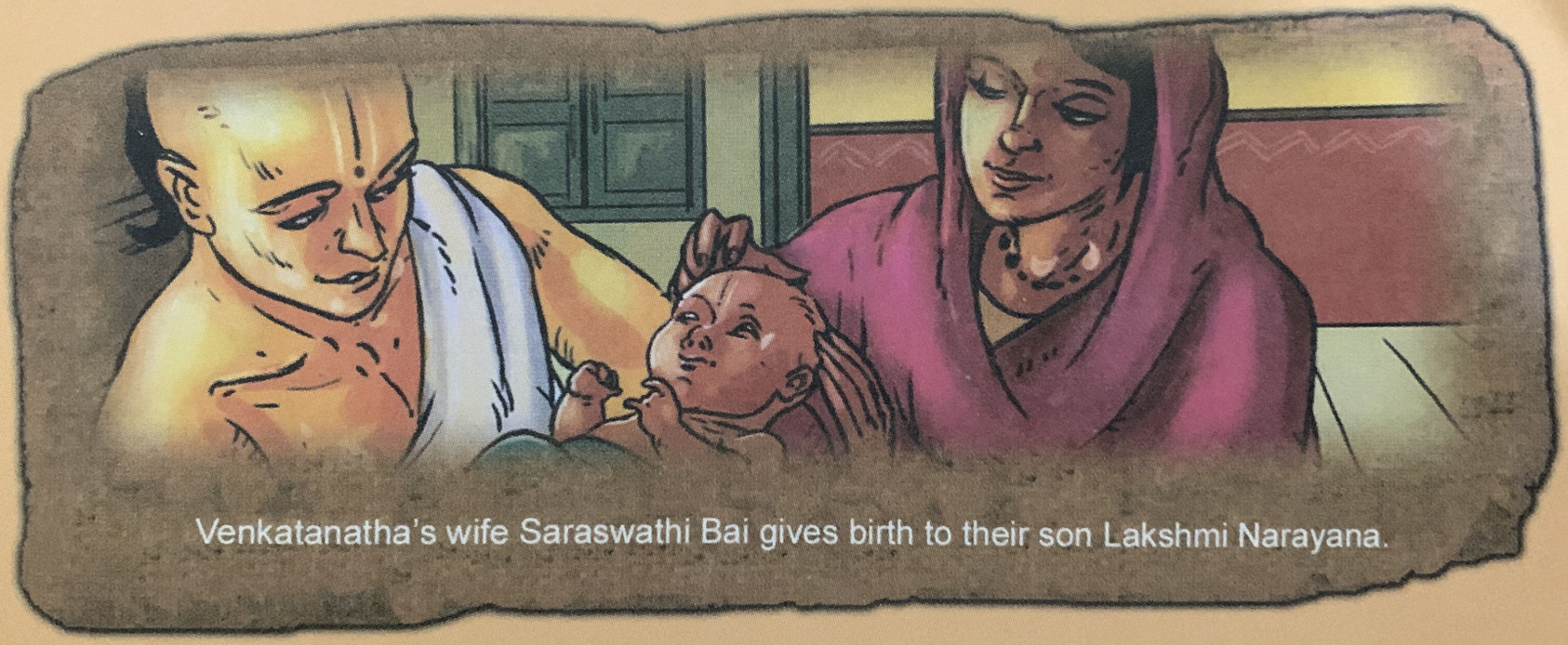
In the year 1616 venkatanatha married Saraswathi Bai in the traditional Brahmin style.

Venkatanatha was ill treated in a richman's house and was forced to extract sandal paste which he did narrating Agni Sukta. The Brahmins who applied the paste felt burning sensation in the body.


Venkatanatha recites Varuna Sukta to cool the burning sensation and every one feels happy.

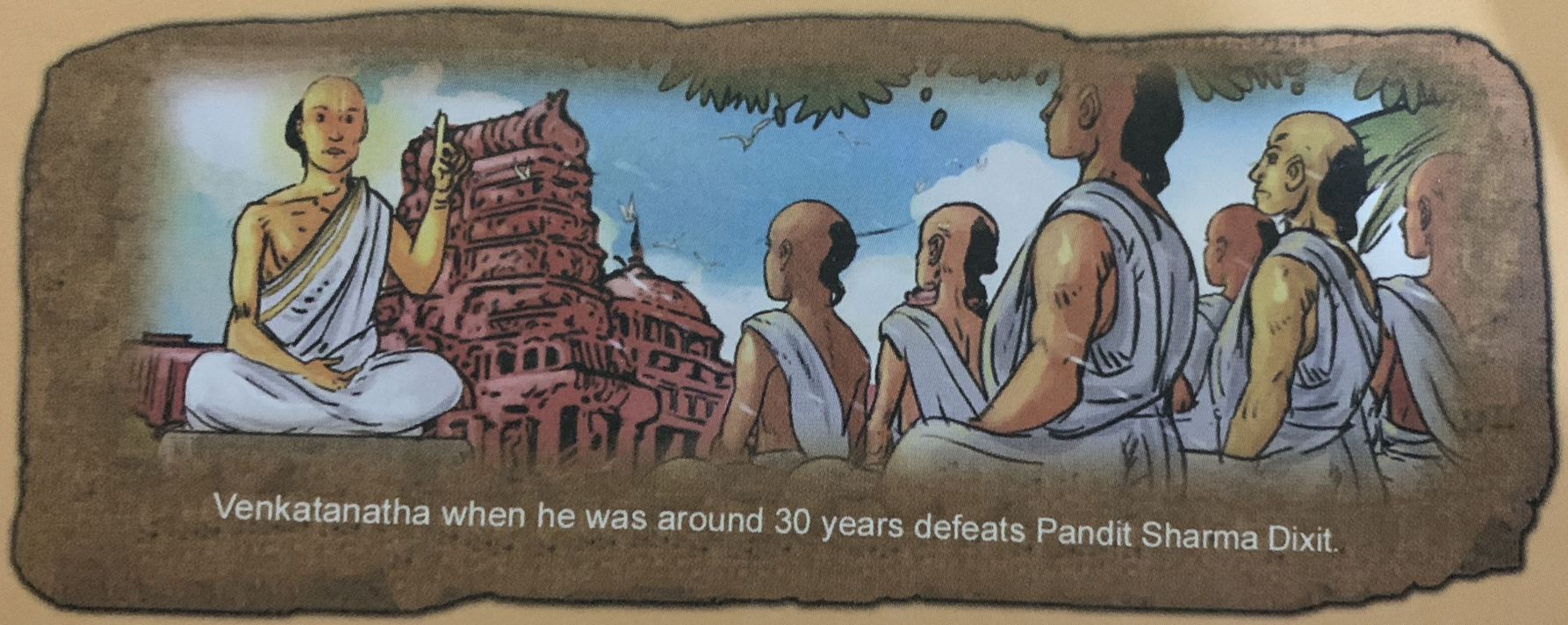


Venkatanatha moves to kaveripatnam as per his Guru's direction. He starts teaching amidst utter poverty.



Venkatanatha's wife Saraswathi Bai gives birth to their son Lakshmi Narayana.

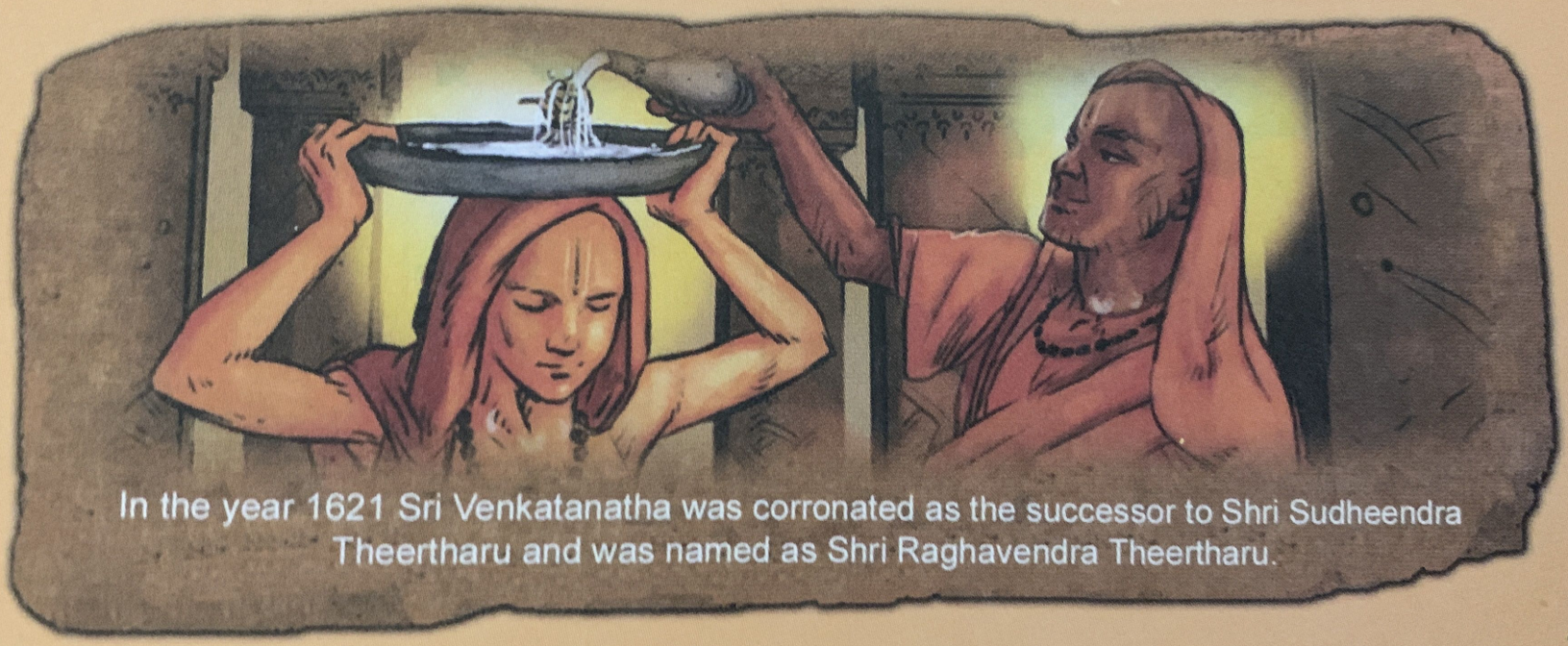
Venkatanatha along with his family returns to Kumbakonam and starts teaching at his Guru Sri Sudheendra Theerthru's Gurukul.



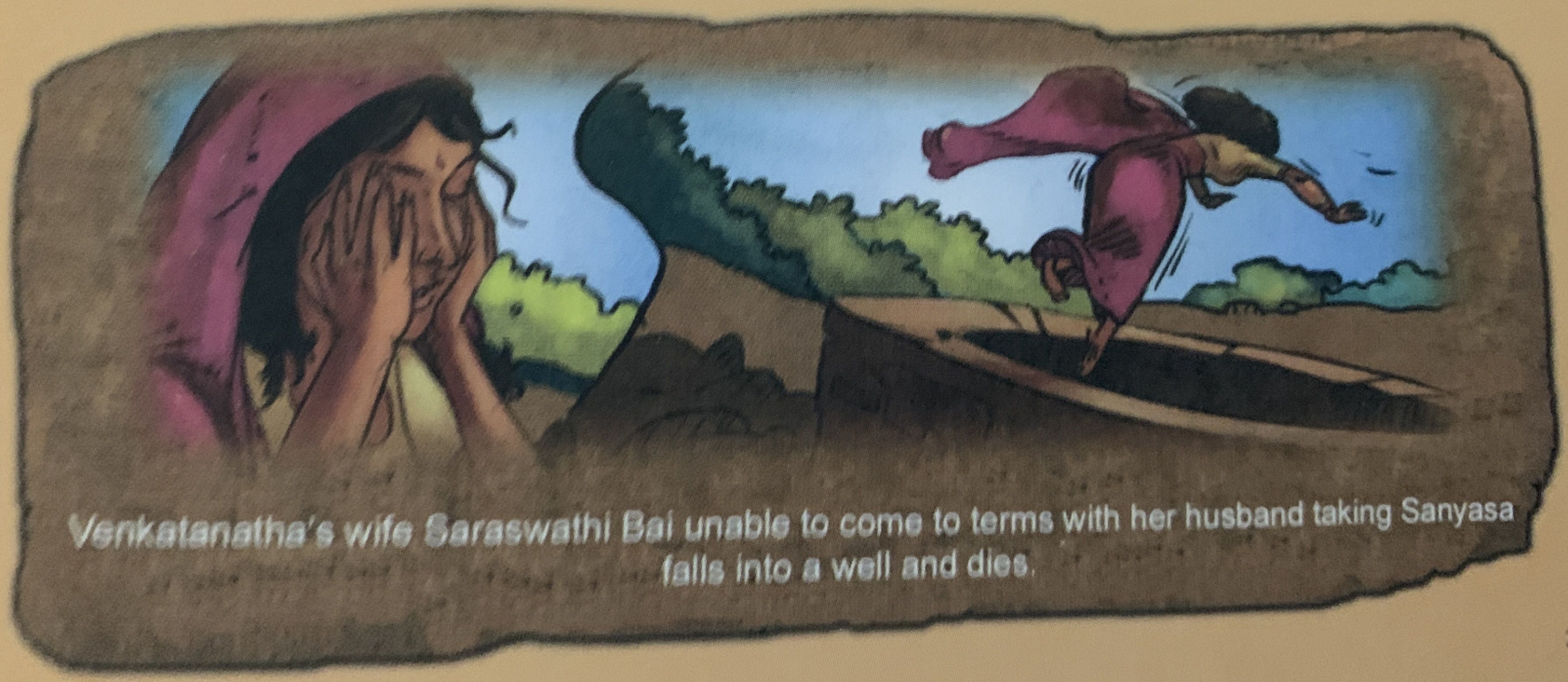
Venkatanatha when he was around 30 years defeats Pandit Sharma Dixit.

The king of Tanjavur is very much impressed with the knowledge and debating skill of venkatanatha. Shri Sudheendra Theerthru looks at his disciple with pride.

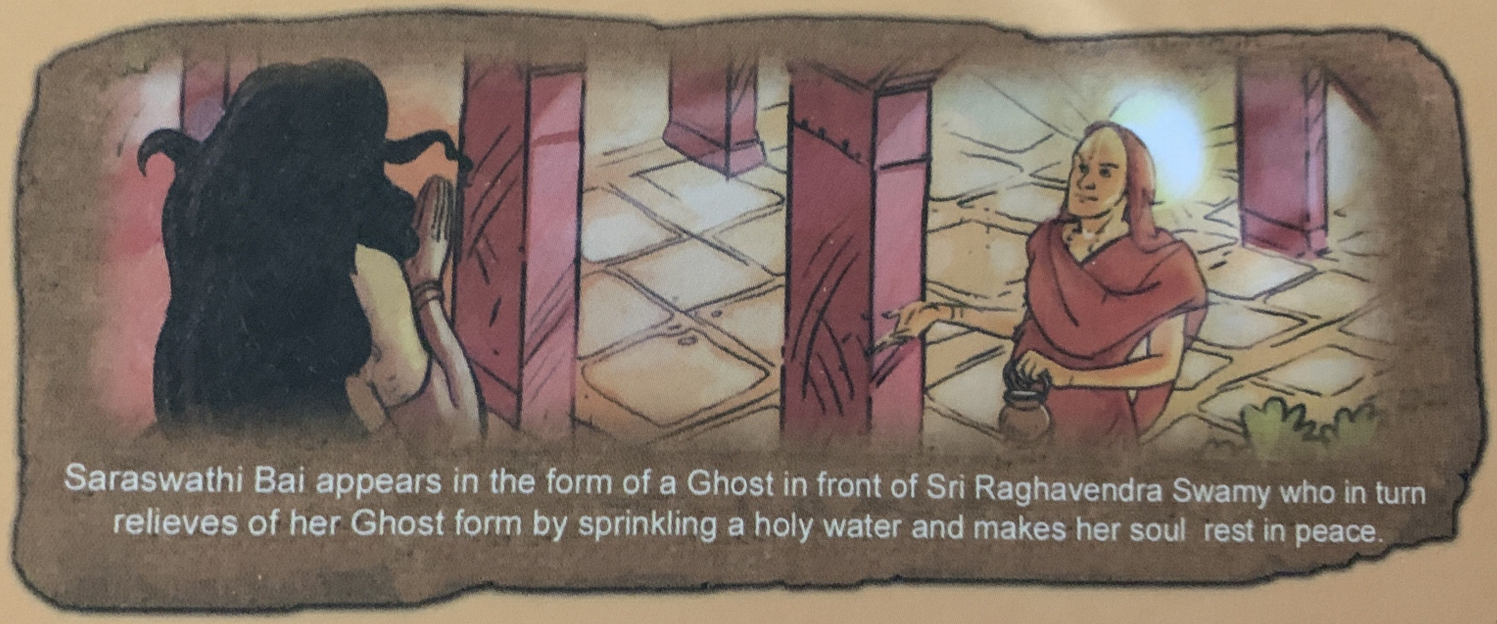
Shri Sudheendra Theertharu informs venkatanatha that he should disown all material things and take Sanyasa and become his successor.



In the year 1621 Sri Venkatanatha was corronated as the successor to Shri Sudheendra Theertharu and was named as Shri Raghavendra Theertharu.

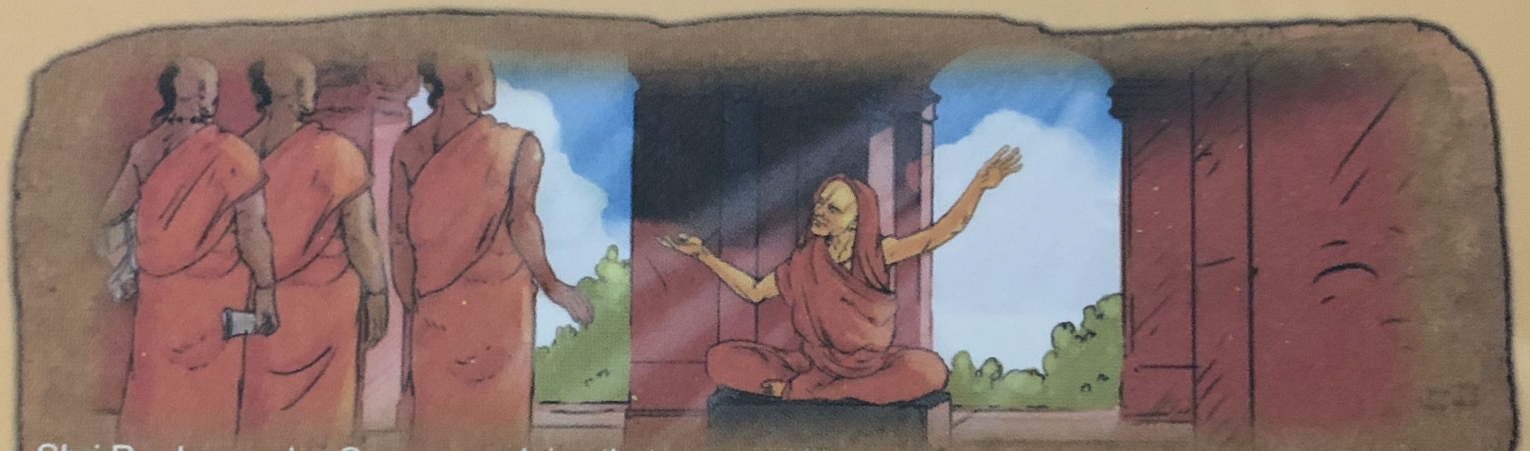


Venkatanatha's wife Saraswathi Bai unable to come to terms with her husband taking Sanyasa falls into a well and dies.

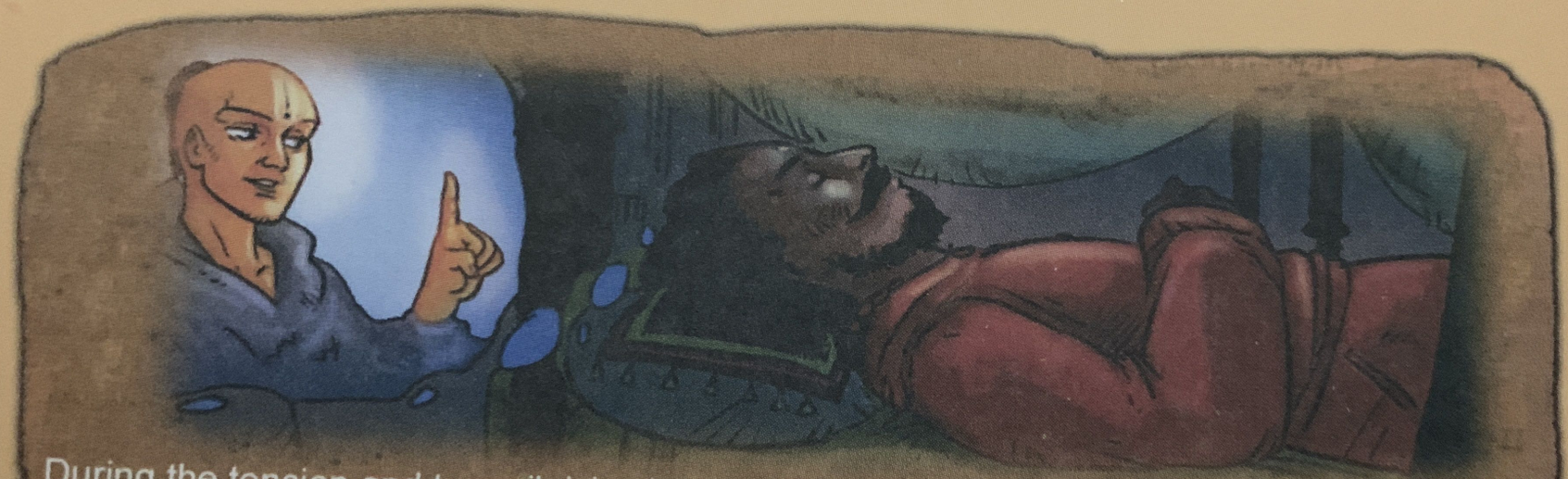


Saraswathi Bai appears in the form of a Ghost in front of Sri Raghavendra Swamy who in turn relieves of her Ghost form by sprinkling a holy water and makes her soul rest in peace.

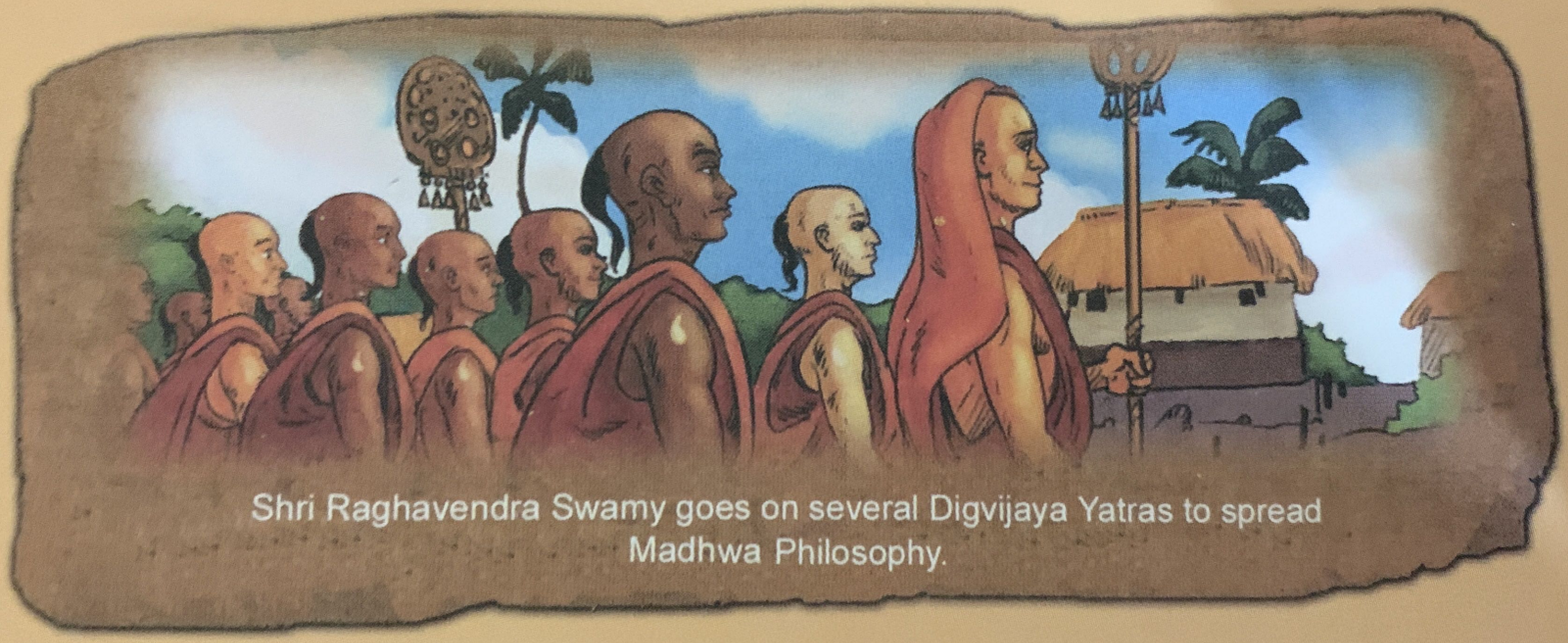
Three astrologers visit Shri Raghavendra Swamy and predict his life span to be of 100,300 and 700 years respectively for him.



Shri Raghavendra Swamy explains that a normal life span is maximum of 100 years if God willing. He further says that his books and teachings will be read and taught by scholars for further 300 years and he will be in Brindavana for 700 years looking after the welfare of the mankind.



During the tension and turmoil rising hatred amongst the kings of Mysore, Tanjavur and Marathas, Shri Raghavendra Swamy appears in the dream of all the kings and asks them not to wage war against Mysore.

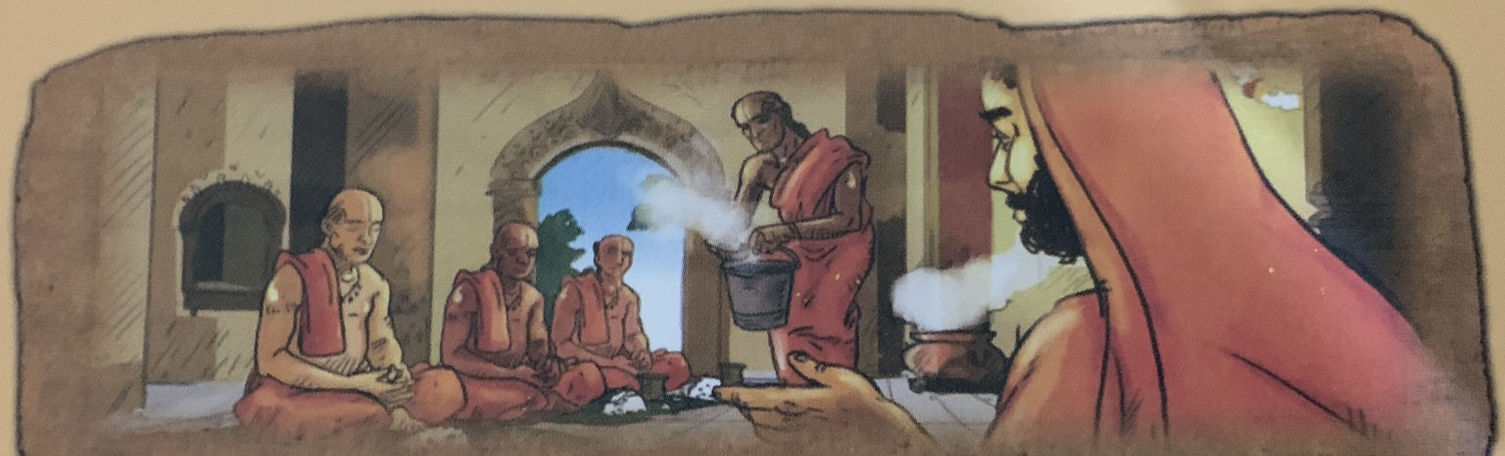


Shri Raghavendra Swamy goes on several Digvijaya Yatras to spread Madhwa Philosophy.

Neerina Venkanna a staunch devotee of Shri Raghavendra Swamy was sent to heaven directly by making him sit on a Pyre.

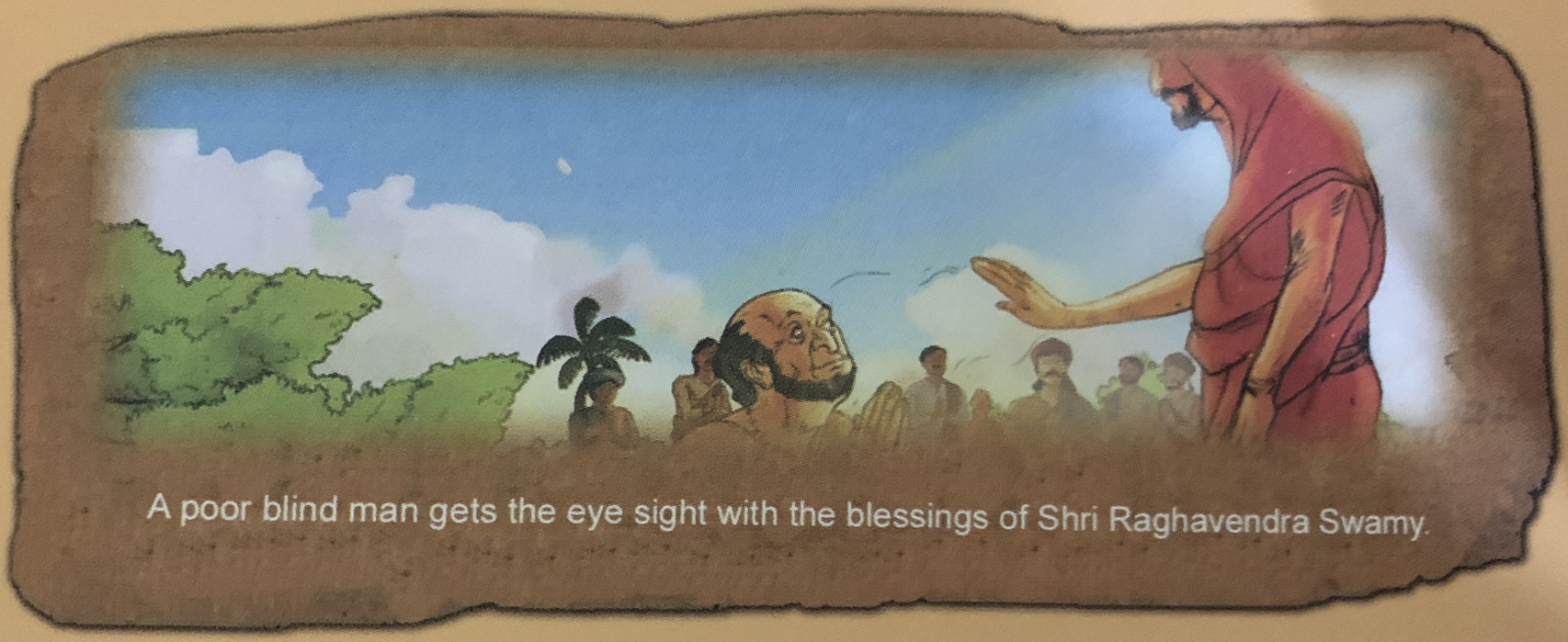
A small boy falls into a huge vessel containing mango pulp and dies. Shri Raghavendra Swamy brings him back to life with his divine power.

A dry & life less wooden log is planted and was made to grow with his divine powers.



The three guests who arrived in the Mutt were fed their favourite dishes by Shri Raghavendra Swamy which they had dreamt of eating before arriving at the Mutt.

A woman delivers baby in the open field under the hot sun and Shri Raghavendra Swamy throws his shawl in the space in order to protect from sun heat falling on the Baby & Mother.



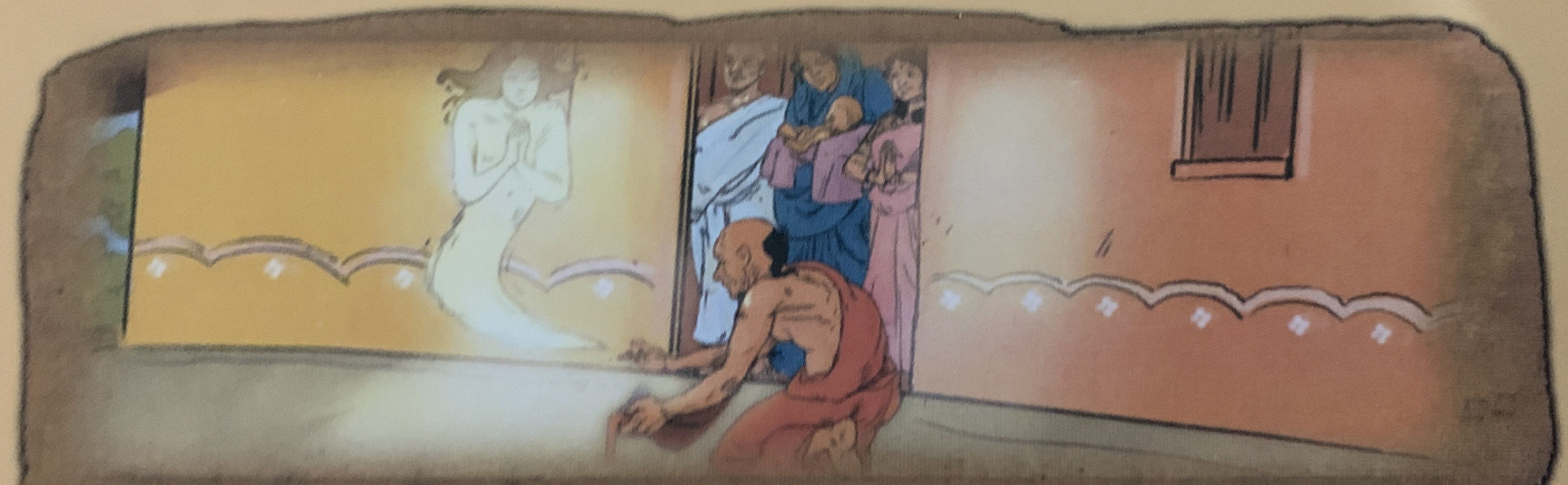
A poor blind man gets the eye sight with the blessings of Shri Raghavendra Swamy.

An atheist challenges Shri Raghavendra Swamy on his divine powers and Rayaru makes the rain down pour only on him with his divine power.

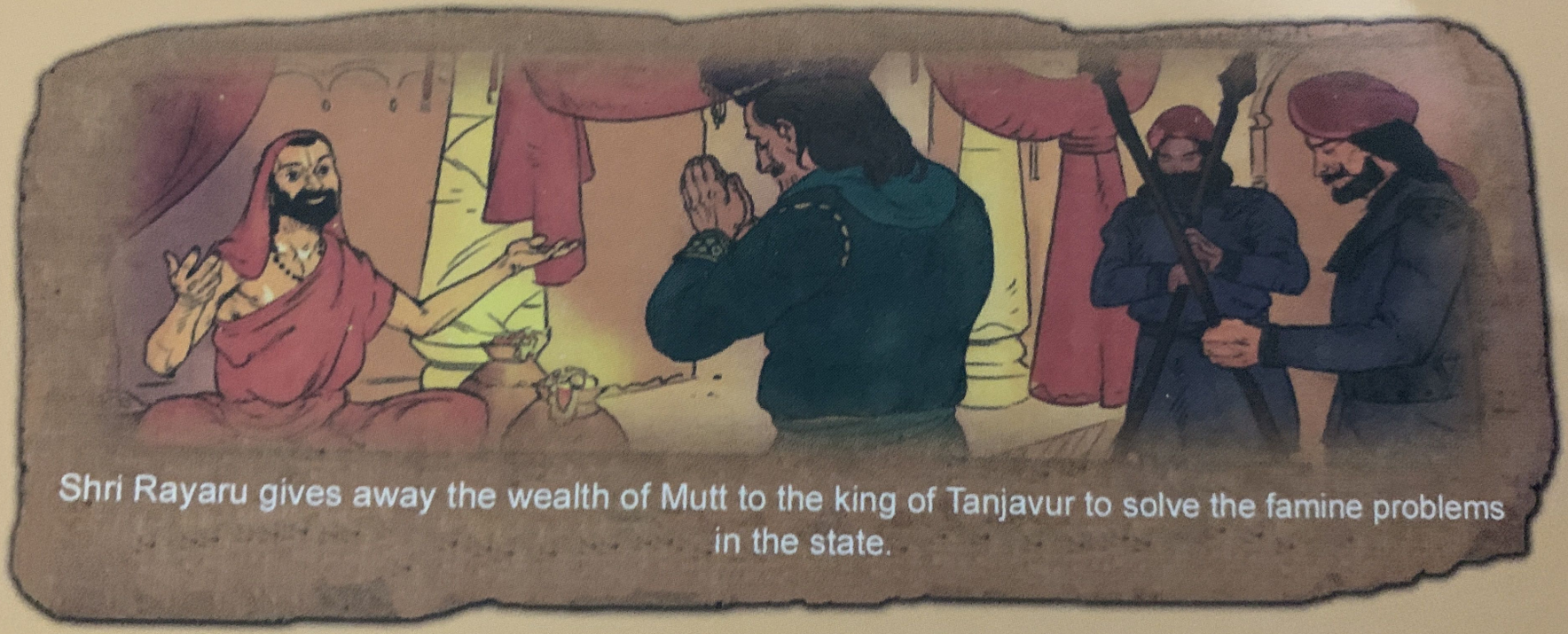
The illiterate and innocent Venkanna who used to graze the cattle becomes literate and intelligent with the grace and blessings of Shri Raghavendra Swamy and becomes Dewan of Adoni State.

The Golden Necklace Presented by the king was offered to fire by Rayaru and when the king felt bad about it Shri Raghavendra Swamy again took back from the fire in the same condition and gave it back to the king.

The son of a Muslim king was bitten by a poisonous snake and was buried thinking that he is dead. Shri Raghavendra Swamy excavates the grave and shows that the boy is alive.

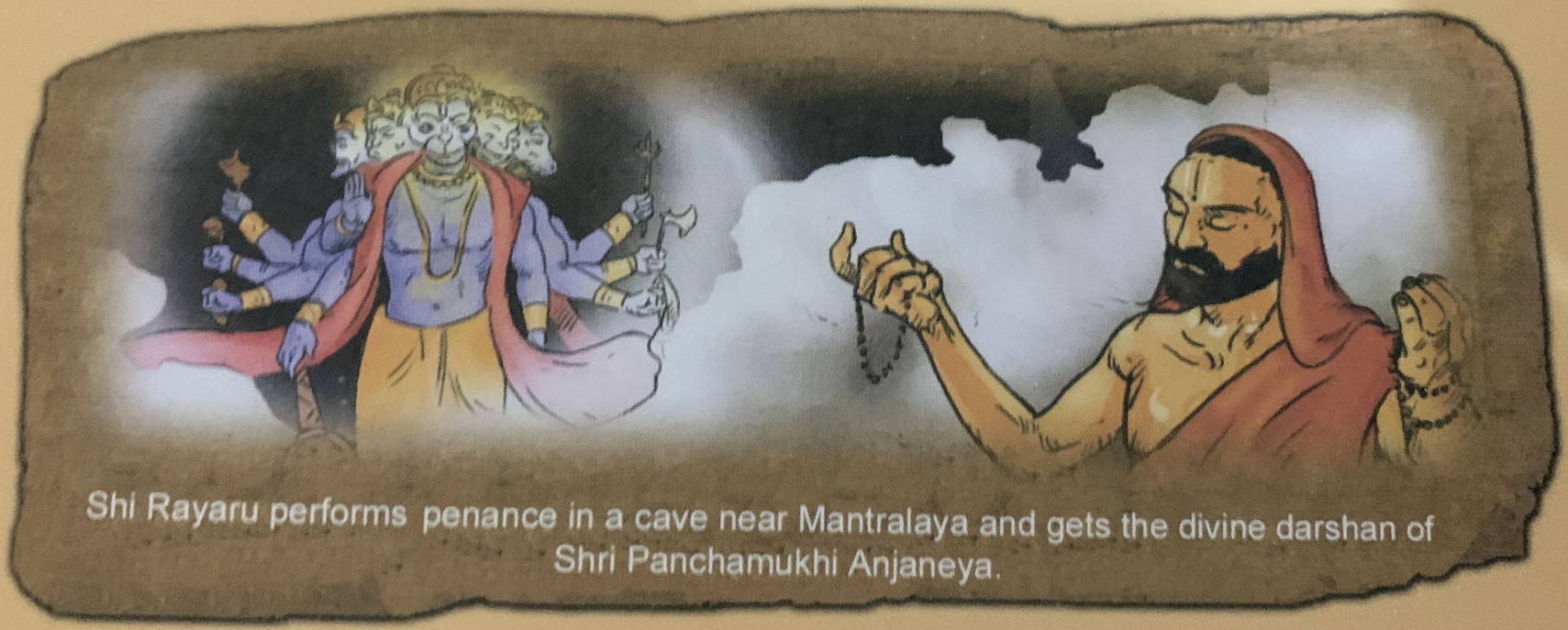


Rayaru gives mud to one of his disciple to relieve a family from the torture of Ghost which used to kill all the new born babies in that family.



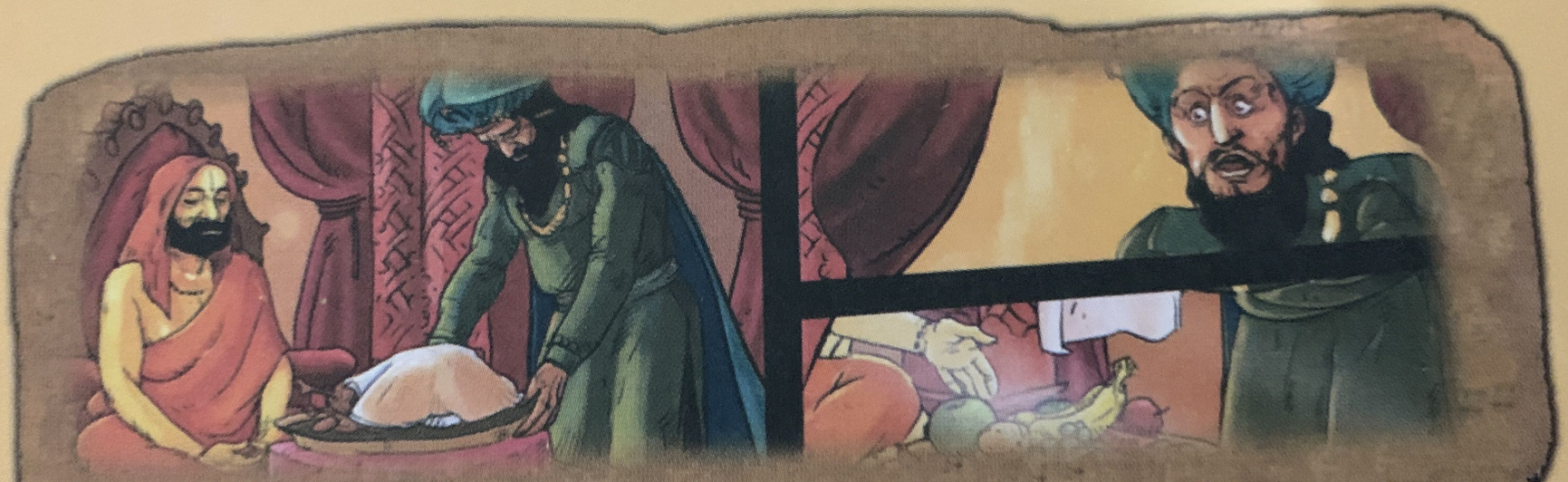
Shri Rayaru gives away the wealth of Mutt to the king of Tanjavur to solve the famine problems in the state.

Shri Raghavendra Swamy sings 'Indu Enage Govinda' in praise of Lord Sri Krishna when he visits Udupi.



Shi Rayaru performs penance in a cave near Mantralaya and gets the divine darshan of Shri Panchamukhi Anjaneya.

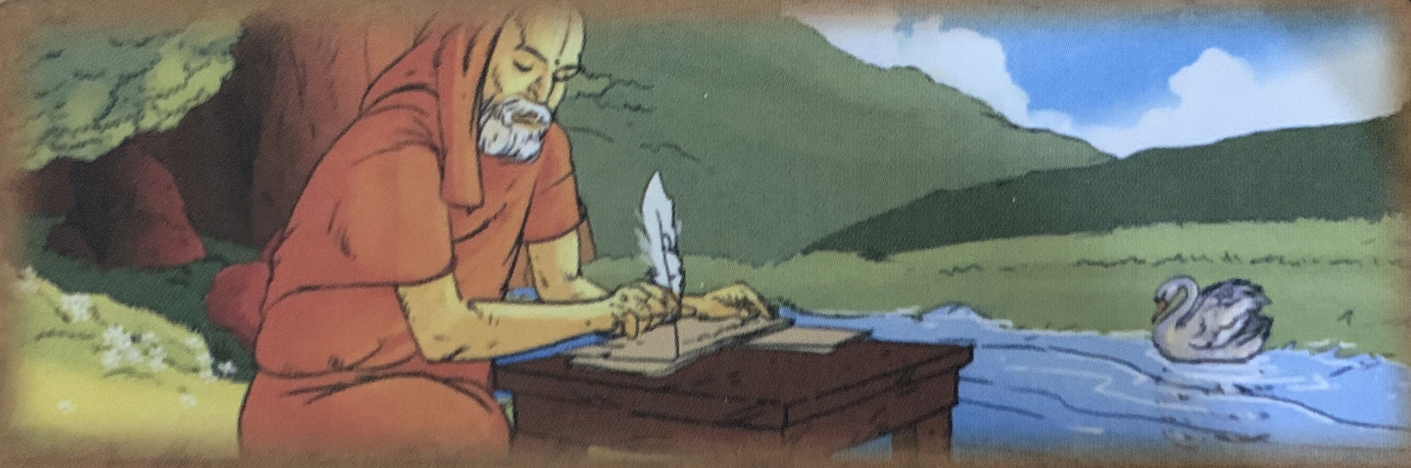
Shri Raghavendra Swamy plays veena in the abode of Lord Shri Venkateswara in Tirumala Tirupati Temple. The garland from the idol comes and falls on the necks of Shri Rayaru thus showing the blessings and happiness of the lord himself.



Masood Khan the Nawab of Adoni offers meat to Rayaru to test his divine power in a plate with a lid closed. Rayaru without seeing the Contents sprinkled holy water on the offering and converts the meat into Fruits & Flowers.

The Nawab apologizes and falls at the feet of Rayaru and offers Manchala village to Shri Raghavendra Swamy.

Shri Appanna Charya is an ardent devotee of Shri Raghavendra Swamy in whose house Shri Raghavendra Swamy lived for 8 years.Shri Appanna Charya has written several books on Shri Raghavendra Swamy



Shri Rayaru has written 48 Granthas (Books) on diverse subjects.

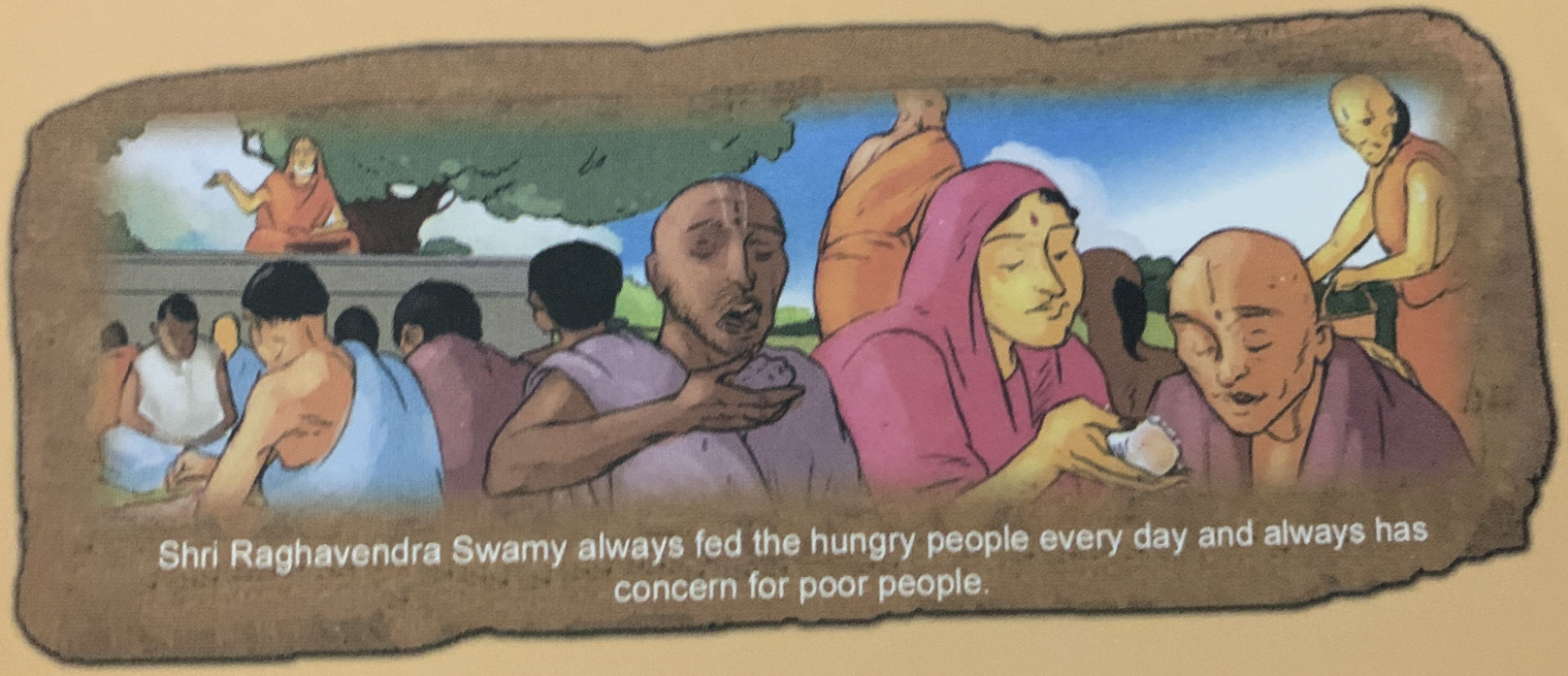
Pandit Shri Narayanacharya writes Shri Raghavendra vijaya the Biography of Shri Raghavendra Swamy and submits to Rayaru.

Shri Raghavendra Swamy appoints Shri Yogendra Theertharu as his successor and coronates him.

Pandit Neelakanta Dixit is defeated in debate by Shri Raghavendra Swamy and he in turn prostrates before Rayaru and takes the scripts and writings of Shri Raghavendra Swamy in a procession on Elephant.

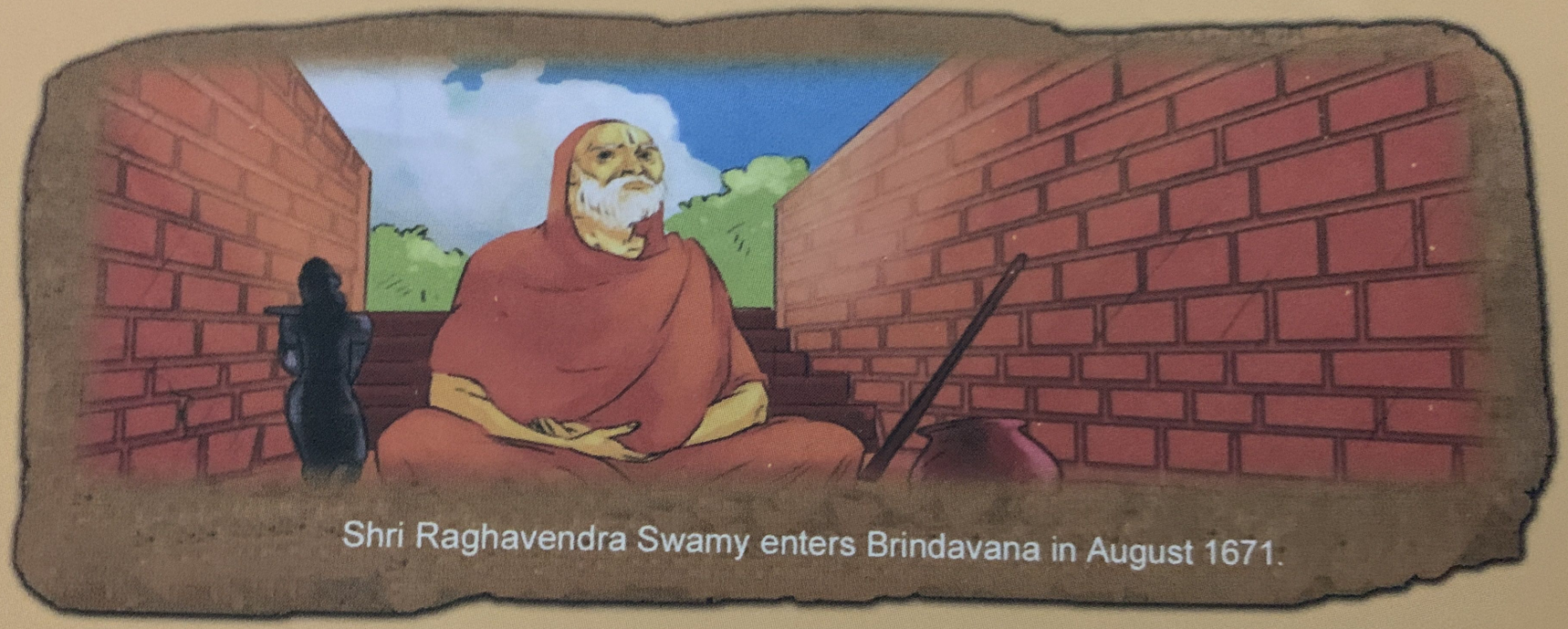
Shri Raghavendra Swamy arranges to build temple dedicated to Grama Devata Manchalamma.

Shri Raghavendra Swamy visits the favourite temple at Mannargudi, Shri Rajagopala Swamy Temple and writes Shri Ragagopala Stuti in his purapravesham.

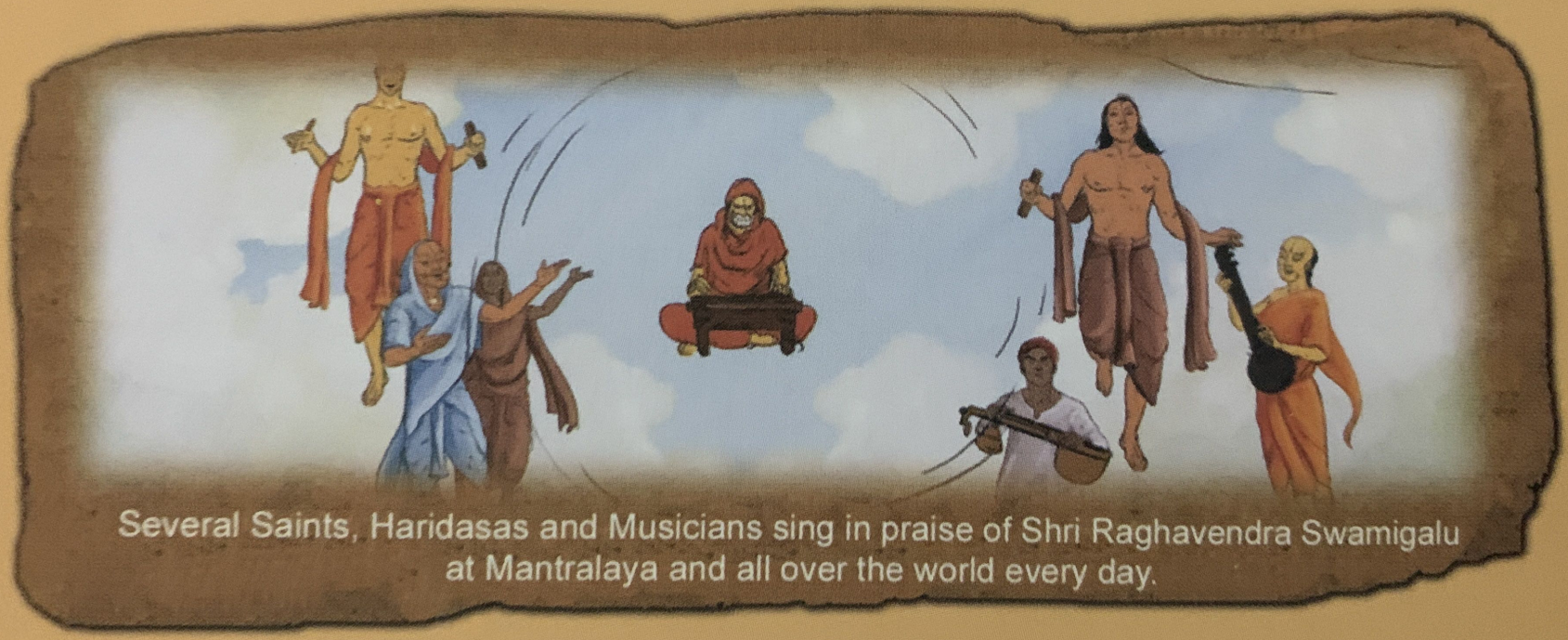


Shri Raghavendra Swamy always fed the hungry people every day and always has concern for poor people.

Shri Raghavendra Swamy instructs Diwan Venkanna of Adoni to construct a Brindavana for him.


Shri Raghavendra Swamy enters Brindavana in August 1671.

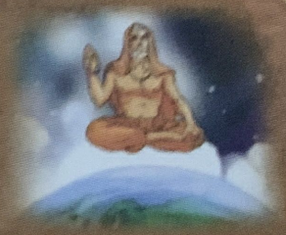
After Brindavana of Shri Raghavendra Swamy Mantralaya became a holy place. Lakhs of his devotees come to take his blessings and relief from pain and sufferings.



Several Saints, Haridasas and Musicians sing in praise of Shri Raghavendra Swamigalu at Mantralaya and all over the world every day.

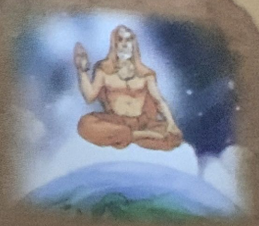
SHRI RAGHAVENDRA SWAMY

Basic Roopa	Shanku Karna
Avataras	Sri Prahalada Rajaru, Sri Balhika Rajaru, & Sri. Vyasa Rajaru
Family	Shrasrjika Dynasty - Biga Mudra Family
Gotra	Gautama
Grand Father	Sri. Kanakachala Bhattaru
Father	Sri. Thimmanna Bhattaru
Mother	Smt. Gopikamba
Elder Sister	Smt. Venkatamba

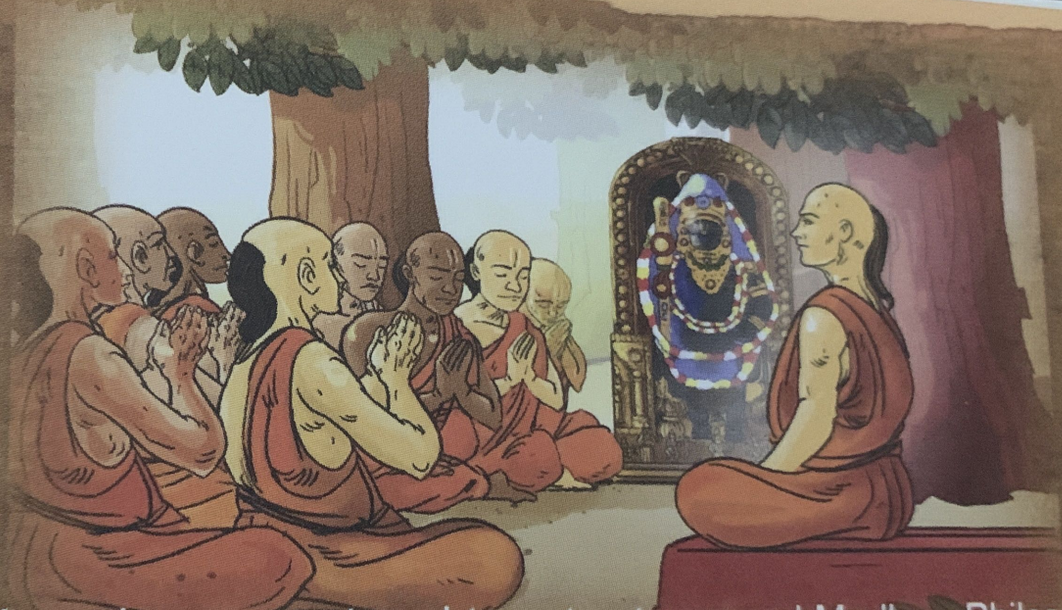


Elder Brother	Sri. Gururajacharyaru
Birth Star	Mrigashira Nakshatra
Birth Place	Bhuvanagiri (Near Kumbhakonam, TN)
Prior Name	Venkatanatha ASSUMING ASHARAMA
AksharaAbhyasa	1597 A.D.
First Teacher	Sri. LakshminarashimhaCharayaru
Upanayanam	1602 A.D. (Age of 7 Years)
Higher Education	Sri. SudheendraThirthara AshramaKumbakonam
Maraige	1614 A.D (Age of 19)
Wife's Name	Smt. Saraswathi Bai

Son's Name	Sri. Lakshmi Narayana Charyaru
Ashram	Blessed by Goddess Saraswathi in dream
Date	1621 AD (@ the age of 25)
Samvatsara	DHURMATHI & Palguna-Shudha-Bidige
Ashram Name	Sri. RaghavendraThirtha
Assumed Ashram	From Sri. SudheedraThirthru
Books Written	SrimanNyasudha, Parimala & 48 others
Recognition	MahaBhashya - VenkatanathaCharyaru & ParimalaCharyaru
Successor Name	Sri. Yogindra Thirtha
BrindavanaPravesha	1671 AD. (Age of 76)

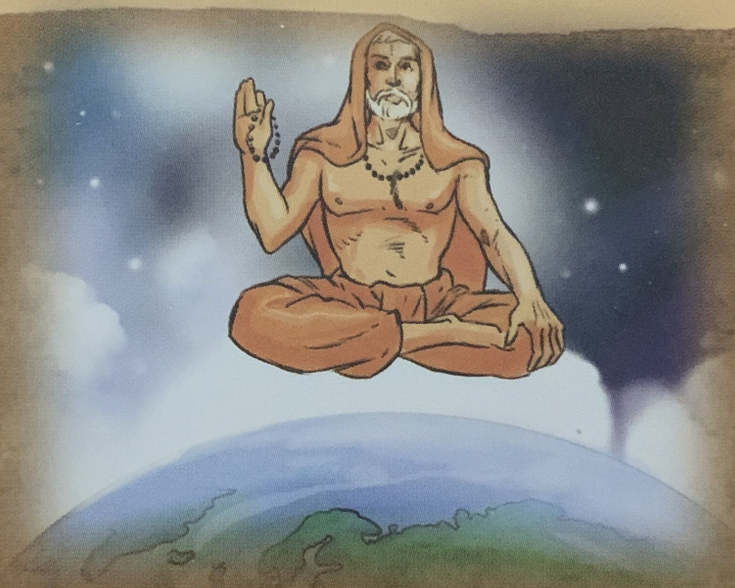


Hanuma Bheema Madhwa
Threthrayuga-Dwaparayuga- Kaliyuga



Sree Madhwacharya creats ashtamatas to spread Madhwa Philosophy

Shankukarna Prahaladha Rajaru VyasaRajaru Bahalika Rajaru
Previous avataras of Sree Raghavendra swami



Vishwaguru Sree Raghavendra swami

www.rayarakrupa.org

ABOUT WWW.RAYARAKRUPA.ORG

www.rayarakrupa.org is a CSR initiative of LakshmiBrooke Coffee Hosts Limited, set up to promote the philosophy of Sri Guru RaghavendraSwamy and is committed to the following ideals

- Serving the devotees of Sri Guru RaghavendraSwamy in their quest for more knowledge
- Keeping alive the philosophy of Sri Guru RaghavendraSwamy and promoting the activities of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Matha.

www.rayarakrupa.org was founded in 2012 by Sri. Anel Kumar and Smt. Lakshmi Anel Kumar, ardent devotees of Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy. With the blessings of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Matha, the organization has taken up several activities including Drinking Water, Toilets, Mosquito Eradication, Planting Trees..... and many more.

An effort is made to produce Rayara Chitra Katha for the purpose of Children to know more on Rayaru. This we hope will help them in their spiritual journey.

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